

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 is rejected based on the disclosure in Japanese Application Publication No. 2001-165390, hereinafter the Japanese Publication.

The test paper at issue here is a porous membrane including a first layer with a surface having apertures thereat, and a second layer with a surface having apertures thereat. A test paper including these features is recited in pending Claim 1. The translated Japanese Publication instead discloses a test paper which is two porous membranes stacked one over the other. In view of these structural differences, Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claim 1 is allowable over the disclosure in the Japanese Publication.

Moreover, Claim 1 is amended to more distinctly recite the above-noted structural difference. Specifically, Claim 1 is amended to recite that the first layer and the second layer are integral with each other and are not separate layers stacked together.

Claim 1 is also amended to recite that the first layer is located from the surface of the first layer within a range of  $1/5$  to  $1/2$  of a thickness of the porous membrane. This feature is clearly not disclosed in the Japanese Publication.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the Japanese Publication, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 6, the other independent claim, is also rejected based on the disclosure in the Japanese Publication. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 is allowable over the Japanese Publication for reasons consistent with the above discussion of

Claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 is therefore also respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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